

Sub 17
1. (Currently Amended) Surgical apparatus comprising an elongated cannula further comprising:

a first lumen extending within the cannula between proximal and distal ends thereof for housing an endoscope therein;
a transparent tip disposed at the distal end of the first lumen for providing dissection and endoscopic visualization therethrough;
and
a second lumen having an open distal end positioned intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the first lumen for housing a surgical instrument therein to protrude from the open distal end for performing surgical procedures on tissue viewed through the transparent tip. ~~the second lumen having an open distal end positioned intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the first lumen.~~

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second lumen is configured to house surgical scissors therein.

3. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second lumen is configured to house therein blades of surgical scissors curved in a predetermined angle.

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second lumen is keyed to maintain tips of surgical scissors housed within the second lumen in a predetermined rotational orientation with respect to the transparent tip.

Sub 2 5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second lumen is configured to house therein blades of surgical scissors that curve toward the transparent tip to provide endoscopic visualization of the blades upon extension from the open distal end of the second lumen.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the transparent tip is tapered.

Sub 3 7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a flexible hood having an open proximal end coupled to the distal end of the second lumen and operable in a transition orientation responsive to ~~the~~ a surgical instrument being retracted within the second lumen proximally from the transparent tip, and in an expanded orientation in response to extension therethrough of a surgical instrument projecting forward from the open distal end of the second lumen.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the hood comprises an elastic material.

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9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the distal end of the hood extends substantially to ~~the~~ a proximal edge of the ~~tapered~~ transparent tip.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the hood comprises a material having sufficient smoothness to facilitate tissue sliding over the hood.

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11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ~~comprising~~ in combination with a tissue bisector as a surgical instrument disposed within the second lumen.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the transparent tip has a proximal end of maximal dimension less than a maximal dimension of the cannula.

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13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cannula includes a transition contour near the location therealong at which the first lumen extends beyond the open distal end of the second lumen to reduce axial force required to advance the cannula through tissue.

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14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ~~comprising~~ in combination with a retractor having a curved distal end ~~for cradling a vein~~ as a surgical instrument slidably disposed within the second lumen for cradling a vein in the curved distal end as extended distally from the open distal end of the second lumen.

2107 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cannula comprises another lumen for housing therein a dissection loop instrument including ~~one or more stems~~ at least one stem extending through another ~~other~~ lumen ~~or lumens~~ and including a curved element attached to a distal end of the stem ~~or stems~~.

CS 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the cannula ~~has~~ includes a storage groove disposed near the open distal end of the second lumen and configured to store a dissection loop including the curved element of the dissection loop instrument.